



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**BLUE SKIES
KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMME
MONGOLIA**

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

2000

LOCATION

Songinokhairkhan, Ulaanbaatar

BACKGROUND

The Blue Skies Kindergarten was established to support the educational and emotional development of our preschool children (ages 1 to 6) residing at CNCF's Ger Village and vulnerable children living in the wider community, and to date, remains the only free Kindergarten in the local district providing children with holistic support and the only free of charge Montessori Kindergarten in the whole country. This programme aims to create a safe and happy environment where disadvantaged children can develop socially and emotionally whilst learning basic literacy and numeracy skills for Primary School entry, in addition to cultivating healthy life habits, confidence, self-esteem and the ability to think creatively

BENEFICIARIES

Children under primary school age who are residents at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village and those living in poverty in the surrounding Songinokhairkhan District area

LOCAL PARTNERS

Caritas Mongolia; Association of Mongolian Welfare Kindergartens; Governor's Office of Songinokhairkhan District; Social Development Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Education Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Treasury Department of Songinokhairkhan District; Family, Children and Youth Department Songinokhairkhan District; 40th Municipal Unit of Songinokhairkhan District; 40th Municipal Unit's Family Clinic in Bayasgalan Non-governmental organisation; 5th region of Bayankhoshuu subdistrict; Montessori Development Centre; Association of Private Kindergartens; Erdemtugs School; University of Finance & Economics; One Sky Mongolia Non-governmental organisation; Agi Charity; General Authority for Education; Ulaanbaatar Education Department; Technological Centre for Education and Information; 4th kindergarten of Chingeltei District; 166th kindergarten of Sukhbaatar District; Education Network for preschool-aged children; Citi University

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is entirely responsible for funding and programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regular meetings are held between the CNCF Kindergarten Team and the CNCF Ger Village Management and Psychosocial Teams. Monitoring visits are conducted by CNCF's Director of Operations during programme activities to discuss any challenges and programme developments with the Kindergarten staff. All children meet regularly with CNCF's Doctors for health check-ups. The National Authority conducts government inspections to ensure child safety practices are in place and the National Inspection Agency, as well as health and fire safety inspections by the local district authorities, are also conducted regularly. A monthly report is completed by the programme manager and an annual report is made available to all stakeholders



OUR YEAR

CNCF recognises the critical importance of a comprehensive approach to nurturing every child's intellectual, social, and emotional growth. For children from disadvantaged backgrounds marked by poverty, neglect, and abuse, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten provides a safe haven. Here, they develop physical, personal, social, and emotional well-being, laying a strong and crucial foundation for cognitive development and learning.

Throughout 2023, CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten continued its integrated Montessori and national pre-education curriculum. This approach supports holistic child development and community bonding. Children engaged in age-appropriate lessons in science, mathematics, culture, language, emotions, and interpersonal skills through self-directed activities, hands-on learning, and collaborative play.

CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten remains the pioneering Montessori welfare kindergarten in Mongolia, the only offering free services to children in extreme poverty. Here, literacy, numeracy, social skills, and emotional development are nurtured, ensuring every child receives a strong educational foundation and support.

Since inception,



1,456 CHILDREN

have been provided with holistic educational, emotional, and healthcare support at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten, establishing a strong foundation for their primary school education

In 2023,



108 CHILDREN

(55 boys & 53 girls)

received holistic care and education at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten

01 CHILD

was from CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village

06 CHILDREN

from CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme

107 CHILDREN

from the wider community

09 CHILDREN

of CNCF Staff





REPORT 2023

OUR YEAR

Age Group

01
Child

1 year old

11
Children

2 years old

21
Children

3 years old

23
Children

4 years old

32
Children

5 years old

18
Children

6 years old

02
Children

7 years old

Education Outcomes



35

CHILDREN

achieved Excellent Performance



50

CHILDREN

achieved Good Performance



21

CHILDREN

graduated from the Kindergarten

Extracurricular Activities



20

CHILDREN

engaged in Dance classes



35

CHILDREN

engaged in Sports classes



11

CHILDREN

participated in Dancing, Drawing, Painting, Singing and Crafting competitions, with 07 prizes and medals awarded

OUR YEAR

Healthcare



65

CHILDREN

received health check-ups



93

CHILDREN

received Vitamin D, Vitamin C,
Multivitamin and Calcium support



50

CHILDREN

received nutritional formula milk

Additional Family Support



40

CHILDREN & 201 FAMILIES IN NEED

received Emergency Relief Packages, including essential food items, clothes, stationeries, and financial support



OUR YEAR

Life Skills Trainings, Health Talks & Excursions



20 CHILDREN
attended 02 trainings and workshops



03 TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS
were organised for the students'
parents and guardians



35 CHILDREN
took part in 03 excursions

Staff trainings



05 KINDERGARTEN STAFF
attended 22 trainings and workshops



OUR STORIES

Davaa's Transformative Journey at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten

Davaa*, a 5-year-old boy, lives with his mother, grandparents, and siblings in their own small ger (a traditional Mongolian home) in a deprived area in the outskirts of Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar. Following his father's tragic sudden departure, in desperation his mother sought support from her elderly parents who too lived in challenging circumstances. Fortunately, CNCF heard of the family's struggles and Davaa's older siblings found nurturing and protection at CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten, where Davaa enrolled in September 2020 also.

Initially, Davaa faced delayed cognitive and physical development, along with communication challenges due to the poverty-related environment he had been born into and the impact these had on his development. Reluctant to be apart from his mother, he often cried and had frequent absences during his first year at kindergarten. However, by the second year, his attendance improved, and his motor skills normalised, this young boy had started to flourish under the care, support and opportunities the Kindergarten provided.

By 2023, regular attendance and focused Montessori training at Blue Skies Kindergarten transformed Davaa. His behaviour stabilised, motor coordination improved, and he developed a keen interest in self-care and orderliness. Davaa now enjoys playing with his friends at the Kindergarten, communicates effectively, has enhanced language skills including reading poetry, and demonstrates self-control and cooperative play. He eagerly anticipates starting primary school next year, confident in his abilities to thrive in a new academic environment. We could not be prouder of how far Davaa and his siblings have come thanks to CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten, providing them with crucial early years support and the foundations to enable their continued positive and flourishing development.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy



OUR STORIES

Inspiring Progress: Baynaa's Journey at the Blue Skies Kindergarten

Baynaa*, a 7-year-old boy, spent his early years at home under the care of his struggling single mother alongside his three siblings. Their home is a small ger (a traditional Mongolian home) on the outskirts of the city.

Baynaa began attending Blue Skies Kindergarten in October 2022. On his first day, he exhibited hyperactivity, difficulty sitting still, language delays, and limited communication skills outside of interactions with his mother. He also showed sensitivity towards unreal concepts, sudden-anger outbursts, and struggled with insomnia. Subsequently diagnosed with autism, Baynaa initially found it challenging to adjust to the Kindergarten's routines and meals, often becoming agitated.

With guidance from his mother who was supported by CNCF, special meals were prepared at home with CNCF's support to ease his transition into the academic year. A tailored developmental training plan was implemented based on assessments of his special needs. Each day, alongside regular kindergarten activities, Baynaa's teacher focused on improving his language skills and teaching basic self-care using methods like the Glenn Doman technique. Montessori lessons in life skills, mathematics, language, and general knowledge were adapted to support his unique requirements.

Over time, and with the right care, love and support, Baynaa grew comfortable with his teacher and the Kindergarten environment. He greeted his teachers and friends each morning with a smile, eagerly engaged in activities, and developed improved communication skills, regularly expressing himself to his teacher. After completing kindergarten, Baynaa successfully transitioned to a mainstream school, where he continueically

alongside his peers. Baynaa's story is a testament to the tailored care and support provided to each of the children at the Kindergarten, empowering and celebrating their individual, and very special, human spirit.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2023

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operation cost of the Blue Skies
Kindergarten in 2023 was:

\$67,434 USD

Heartfelt thanks to our donors who enable
CNCF to keep this project operating and to
the many kind individuals not mentioned for
their additional support which enables us to
keep our costs down.

Audit in progress at time of reporting. Our
audits can be found [here](#).



BLUE SKIES KINDERGARTEN EXPENDITURES IN 2023

Expenditure	Amount (USD)
Food & Consumables	11,843.08
Festive / Birthday Parties	1,183.80
Education Supplies and Expenses & Teacher's Stationery	861.34
Equipment & Items	250.68
Staff Salaries (6 Staff)	37,874.33
Staff Social Insurance (mandatory)	4,551.62
Utilities (Electricity, Firewood & Coal)	2,892.04
Sewage Removal, Maintenance & Improvements	804.44
Staff Training, Public & Staff Relations	1,159.62
Miscellaneous / Others	1,872.07
Depreciation	4,141.94
TOTAL COST	67,434.96



For more information on this report and our CNCF projects in Mongolia, please contact:

 PO Box 2150 Ulaanbaatar 2112 13 Mongolia

 +976 11 329866

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF_int

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation